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Returns are still good, but the strong opposition on the N W Coast for the last outfit, rendered it absolutely necessary to take some steps for the protection of the trade at that place, or abandon it altogether; I therefore, sailed in July last, for the Sandwich Islands, where I purchased a fine new copper brig of 150 tons for the sum of £1250 paid from the proceeds of the salmon & timber sent to that market. I also engaged her Captain (McNeill) to continue in the command of her who from his long experience on the N W Coast, will I think give affairs in that quarter a favourable turn. This step, together with the report of Mr. Ogden's liberality toward the natives, have been productive of some good results—insomuch, as it has acted as a damper upon our opponents; consequently the Coast at least for this winter, is clear of opposition and in this state will be turned to great advantage. It cleared for the last outfit £1613—the first gains ever realized from it, and I shall answer for its gains, ensuing one to treble that sum. I have written to Dr. Harkness, who is very old friend and acquaintance of mine, and who I will be most happy to see. I was not aware of his being at Quebec. In the Postscript to your letter of 12th March you speak of retiring. If your means are sufficient for that purpose, I would certainly do so, but I would recommend to you, not to take a step rashly, of which you might hereafter have cause to repent. You have two melancholy instances in your neighbourhood of the folly of such measures. I mean Messrs. McVicar & Spencer, both of whom if my information is correct, would gladly now grasp at what they have so foolishly spurned from them. I am just about starting on a cruise to the North West Coast and will perhaps peep in at the Russian Settlement at Sitka, you will therefore forgive the brevity of this, and with best wishes for the health and happiness and prosperity of yourself and family,

I am, My dear Sir,

Most sincerely yours,

(Sgd) D'N FINLAYSON.

McLoughlin Mentions Wyeth.

In this interesting letter of friendly gossip the "Father of Oregon" reveals his heart about a number of things, and without mentioning the name tells of the arrival there of Nathaniel J. Wyeth.

Fort Vancouver, 1st March, 1833.

My dear Sir,

I have now before me your kind letter of 10 March 1832, and am happy to see that you and yours are enjoying that greatest of Terrestrial Blessings Good Health—and My Sister writes me that there are two Miss McLeods from the upper country at the Convent—did you know that the Mere Superior is my Sister—

if so why did you not tell her that you knew me & I am certain she would have been pleased to see an acquaintance of her Brothers. I am sorry to see you seem to consider your present situation will lead to Incur Expense. It is true it may do a little but you have the advantage by being close to the Civilized World, that you can place your money where you can get better interest than we get in England and the far greater advantage of being at hand to superintend the Education of your children—but of course every man is Best able to judge for himself and although I differ with your view of your situation still on your account I am sorry since all happiness only lays in the mind that you are not placed in a place more constant to your wishes. I have no data to enable me to give an opinion of the Kings Posts but if they are no Better than when the North West Company had them I think they will never pay the price paid for them, but still it may have been good Polocy to buy them as I am informed the Company was getting as notorious as the N. W. and H. B. were formerly in Canada.

But it is galling to think that a Bankrupt Yankee unacquainted with the Business should have been able to oblige us to pay so dear—in this quarter we go on in the usual way. Last year we had five opponents on the coast but still we procured furs to the amount of four thousand five hundred pounds. But this year we expect to have the Trade to ourselves and to do Better—we are also going to Establish another Post on the coast at Mill Bank Sound—and in 1834 another Post on a river in Latitude 56 North. Snake County is Ruined and there are at present 400 Americans in it and I see nothing that they can do to live but go in a body to the Pie-gan Lands which will be a Death blow to the Saskatchewan. A party of Americans made their way to this place they intended to Establish a Salmon fishery, but their plan has failed for the present in consequence of the vessel being wrecked, with their supplies being wrecked on their way there—and though he is off to Boston his people are here and he says he will be Back. Gervais (two names illegible) and a few others have begun farms in the Willamette and though I have been here since 1824 still I never could find time to visit it till last year and certainly it is deserving all the praises Bestowed on it as it is the finest country I have seen & certainly a far finer country than Red River for Indian traders to retire to—and before long you may depend it will be settled as there is now a plan on foot to colonize it from Boston. Margaret and Maria desire to (be) remembered to you and Charlotte and believe me to be

Yours truly

(sgd) JOHN McLOUGHLIN.

N. B. Our crop is 3,500 Bushels Wheat, 3,000 Do. of Pease 3,000 Do Barley, 2,000 Do. Oats and 15,000 do Potatoes. I believe we would bear to be compared with any farm—our stock of cattle between 400 and 450 exclusive of what we supplied other places and you know in 1824 we had only 17 cows.